

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 were pending, with claims 1-19 withdrawn from consideration, claims 20-22, 24, 37, and 40 rejected, and claims 23, 25-36, 38, 39, and 41 objected to. Claims 1-19 and 23 are canceled herein, and claims 20 and 25-41 are amended herein. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that new counsel has been chosen to respond to prosecution matters in this case, and the prior power of attorney has been revoked. Applicant respectfully requests that further correspondence or inquiries be directed as indicated on the contact information contained herein, with reference to the new docket number if possible.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 23, 25-36, 38, 39, and 41 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 23 has been incorporated into base claim 20. Original claims 21, 22, and 24 now depend from a claim containing the subject matter of original allowable claim 23, and should be allowable as well.

Claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form, and claims 26 and 27 have been rewritten to depend from claim 25.

Claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form, and claims 29 and 30 have been rewritten to depend from claim 28.

Claim 31 has been rewritten in independent form, and claim 32 has been rewritten to depend from claim 31.

Claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form, and claims 34-37 have been rewritten to depend from claim 33.

Claim 41 has been rewritten in independent form, and claims 38-40 have been rewritten to depend from claim 41.

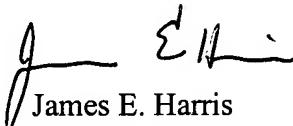
Several minor typographical errors were noted and corrected as well.

Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims place the remaining claims in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 20-22 and 24-41 as presently constituted. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 512.867.8502 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: 5/24/05

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